



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5484

LCO No. 2171

02171_____JUD

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE FAILURE OF A WITNESS TO REPORT A
SERIOUS CRIME COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2010*) (a) A person is guilty of
2 failure to report a crime against a child when such person (1) witnesses
3 what the person knows or reasonably should know is the murder,
4 sexual assault or assault of a child by another person, or the attempt
5 thereof, (2) knows or reasonably should know that the child is under
6 sixteen years of age, and (3) does not, as soon as reasonably
7 practicable, report that crime to a law enforcement official.
- 8 (b) In any prosecution for an offense under this section, it shall be an
9 affirmative defense that the defendant did not, as soon as reasonably
10 practicable, report the crime because the defendant reasonably
11 believed that (1) doing so would have exposed the defendant or
12 another person to a substantial risk of physical injury, or (2) another
13 person had already reported the crime to a law enforcement official, or
14 (3) another person was already providing effective assistance.
- 15 (c) Failure to report a crime against a child is a class A

16 misdemeanor.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2010</i>	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require a person who witnesses a serious crime being committed against a child under sixteen years of age to report that crime to a law enforcement official.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]